

Los Angeles County is home to over 10 million people. Over the years, the County has experienced a variety of disasters ranging from fires to earthquakes which require the deployment of our emergency responders. The County's Disaster Resource Center (DRC) Program was implemented in 2004 and was refined over subsequent years to assist with coordinating the County's vast healthcare community in the event of a medical disaster. The DRC Program is overseen by the Department of Health Services Emergency Medical Services Agency and consists of 13 designated hospitals working in 10 regions throughout the County to coordinate with over 100 acute care hospitals to plan, train for and facilitate a regional disaster response. The 13 designated DRC hospitals are equipped with tent shelters to house up to 40 patients and they maintain caches of emergency medical and pharmaceutical supplies which can be transported to other hospitals within the region when a disaster occurs. Under current law, however, the speedy transport of such supplies may be impeded if the DRC hospitals do not operate emergency vehicles or are unable to procure a police escort.

SB 573, by Senator Ted Lieu, would authorize the Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol to designate as "emergency vehicles" certain vehicles owned

MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

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and operated by one of the County's 13 designated DRC hospitals. The authorization would apply exclusively to vehicles used to transport mass-casualty decontamination apparatus, medical supplies, lifesaving equipment and/or personnel to the scene of an emergency at the request of the Los Angeles Emergency Medical Services Agency or the California Emergency Medical Services Authority.

The ability to rapidly respond to a major disaster can mean the difference between life and death. SB 573 would help facilitate the County's emergency response system and help protect and save the lives of the County's residents and visitors in the event of a major disaster.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Officer and the Sacramento Advocates to support SB 573.

ABK S:\SB 573 (Lieu) Emergency Vehicles